Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of surface treating a cookware article formed of aluminum or aluminum alloy, comprising:

   a) applying a first coating of porcelain enamel to the exterior of the article;

   b) exposing the interior and the exterior of the article to an anodizing acid solution to subject the interior of the article to hard-anodizing after the first coating is applied; and

   c) applying a second coating of porcelain enamel over the first porcelain enamel coating after the interior of the article is hard-anodized.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the first and second porcelain enamel [[is]] coatings are each applied as a porcelain slip which is cured at an elevated temperature.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the second porcelain enamel coating is subjected to curing at a temperature which is sufficient to at least partially remelt the surface of the first porcelain enamel coating.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the first porcelain enamel coating is applied as a layer of thickness in the range of 25 to 35 microns.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the second porcelain enamel coating is applied as a layer of thickness in the range of 30 to 35 microns.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the second porcelain enamel coating is subjected to rapid drying using infra-red heating means to dry the enamel surface, followed by silkscreen printing of a pattern onto the dried surface.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the first porcelain enamel coating is heated to curing at a temperature in the region of 540 to 555°C.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said curing is carried out for 1 to 1.5 minutes.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein at step b) the interior of the article is subjected to anodizing for less than 20 minutes.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the hard-anodized interior of the article is coated with a non-stick coating.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an article of cookware of aluminum or aluminum alloy, comprising:

i) providing a blank of flat metal;

ii) forming the article by stamping the blank into the desired shape;

iii) applying a first coating of porcelain slip to the exterior of the article of thickness in the range of 25 to 35 microns and curing at an elevated temperature to produce a hard enamel;

iv) exposing the interior and the exterior of the article to an anodizing acid solution to subject the interior to hard-anodizing after the first coating is applied and cured;

v) applying a second coating of porcelain slip of thickness in the range of 30 to 35 microns over the first coating, after the interior is hard anodized, and curing to produce a hard enamel; and

vi) applying a non-stick coating to the hard-anodized interior of the article.

12. (Original) An article of cookware when formed according to the method of claim 1.

13. (Original) An article of cookware when formed according to the method of claim 11.

14. (Withdrawn) An article of cookware of aluminium or aluminium alloy having an exterior coating of porcelain enamel, and an interior hard-anodized surface covered in a non-stick coating.

15. (Withdrawn) An article of cookware according to claim 14 wherein the total thickness of the porcelain enamel coating is in the range 60 to 70 microns.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein exposing the interior and exterior of the article to the anodizing acid solution further comprises:

partially removing the first coating from the exterior.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein exposing the interior and exterior of the article to the anodizing acid solution further comprises:

partially removing the first coating from the exterior.